

**REMARKS**

Claims 14-23 are canceled herein. Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application.

**I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U. S. Patent No. 6,919,158 (Kawamura et al).

Claims 14-23 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-13 are allowable over the prior art of record (U. S. Patent No. 6,919,158 (Kawamura et al)).

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

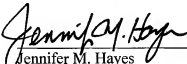
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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